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目明し編 4
竜騎士07
古恵ゆうり

Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY
EYE OPENING ARC

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CHAPTER 17
RIKA
!?
NGH!

CHAPTER 17: ROAR OF THE DEMON

UWAAAAHH!
!?

I NEVER THOUGHT RIKA WOULD COME ATTACK ME ON HER OWN!
WELL, YOU SURE SLIT OPEN YOUR OWN BELLY HERE!
YOU WANT ME TO PULL EVERY-THING OUT!!?

TCH!
SO HER GOAL IS TO GET THAT SYRINGE INTO ME?
IF SHE CAN JUST MANAGE TO INJECT ME, THAT WILL BE ENOUGH TO MAKE HER SURPRISE ATTACK A SUCCESS...
...THAT'S THE THOUGHT I CAN SEE FLITTING ACROSS HER MIND.
IN OTHER WORDS, WHATEVER THAT DRUG DOES, IT KICKS IN IMMEDIATELY.
IT'LL EITHER KNOCK ME OUT OR KILL ME. THOSE ARE THE ONLY POSSIBILITIES ...!!

BUT MY STUN GUN IS A GAME-WINNING WEAPON TOO—IT CAN KNOCK OUT MY OPPONENT IN ONE BLOW!!
BACHI (CRACKLE)
COME ON, COME ON, HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO STAND AROUND IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S HOUSE!!?
IF YOU WON'T COME GET ME...
...I'LL COME TO YOU!!
BA DADO

BASH
CRASH
BA
DUMP
!?

KA CHUNG
DOKA CHUNG
KARAN (CLUNTER)

NH
NGH...
HA! YOU'RE PATHETIC! DID YOU THINK YOU COULD BEAT ME!?
DON'T TAKE ME SO LIGHTLY!!
GA (GRAB)

LET'S TEST IT OUT ON YOU!!
SO JUST WHAT KIND OF DRUG IS IN HERE...?
ドキッ
ドキドキ
ウウウ

NNGH ...!
HAAH!
...NH.. NGH...
HUFF!
HUFF!

はぁ
はぁ
ズル
ズル
KOFF!
KOFF!
ヨロ

NNH.
KOFF! ...HAAH...
...NNGH. AGH...
HANYU ....
HA-NYU...
H...

I GUESS I COULD WATCH AND SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES FOR YOU TO KICK THE BUCKET!
THIS IS HILARIOUS! YOU'RE SO PATHETIC!
AH!
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

!?
WELL, THEN. SHALL WE TAKE THIS PARTY ELSEWHERE? TO THE FUN AND DELIGHTFUL UNDERGROUND SAIGUDEN?
BUT THEN I'D LOSE ALL THE FUN OF TORTURING YOU.
OH? YOU STILL HAVE THAT MUCH ENERGY LEFT?

UNFORTUNATELY I MUST DECLINE YOUR INVITATION...
...YOU TORTURE FIEND.
COMPARED TO THE BLOODY HISTORY OF YOU THREE FAMILIES, WHAT I DO IS NOTHING.
SO? YOU'RE GOING TO RESIST ME WITH THAT ONE KNIFE, STAGGERING AROUND LIKE THAT?
IT'S ALL YOU CAN DO JUST TO STAND UP.

HEH! EXIT !?
GO AHEAD AND TRY!
IF MY OTHER CHOICE IS TO BE TORTURED TO DEATH BY YOU, THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE MY EXIT
INDEED... AS YOU SAY, I'M AT MY LIMIT...
はぁ
はぁ
ハァ
ハァ
ハァ

WELL, THEN.
GOOD-BYE, TORTURE FIEND!

YES...
SHE'S PERFORMING A DANCE...!

THE FINAL CEREMONIAL DANCE THAT THE DEMONS DEDICATE TO OYASHIRO-SAMA!!

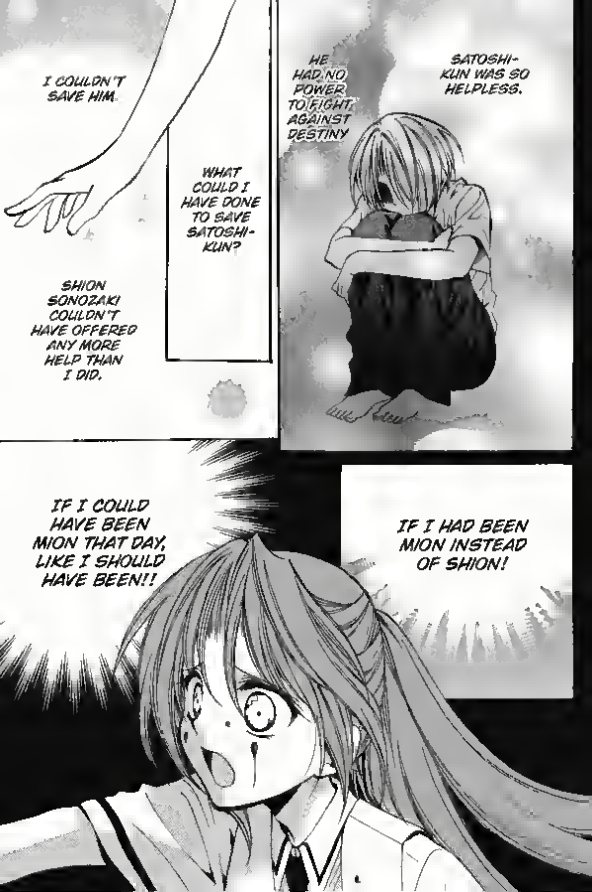
ガク
KAKU (SHAKE)
ガク
KAKU (SHAKE)
はぁ
HAA (SIGH)
ガク
KAKU
ピチャ
PICHA (SPLASH)
ピチャ
PICHA
ガク
KAKU
ガク
KAKU
ヒュー
HYUU (WHOOSH)
ヒュー
HYUU
ガク
KAKU
ゴホ
GOHO (COUGH)
ゴホ
GOHO (COUGH)
ガク
KAKU

GASP!
GASP!
NO!
NO!
NO!
NO!

KUKU
(SLUMP)

I BEAT THEM ALL!!
I WON!!
I WON!!
AAAAAAAH!
UOOWA-OHHH!
NN.
UHN..

I DID IT!!
THAT'S RIGHT!
I DEFEATED THE HEAD OF THE FURUDE FAMILY WHEN SHE CAME AFTER ME, AND SHE DIED A DEATH FIT FOR THE HEAD OF ONE OF THE THREE FAMILIES!!
I'VE CAPTURED THE HEAD OF THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY!!
THE HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY DIED FROM SHOCK!!
I'VE DESTROYED EVERYONE WHO DRAGGED SATOSHI-KUN INTO THE CURSE!!
EVERYONE!!
EVERY-ONE!!


I COULDN'T SAVE HIM.
WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE TO SAVE SATOSHI-KUN?
SHION SONOZAKI COULDN'T HAVE OFFERED ANY MORE HELP THAN I DID.
HE HAD NO POWER TO FIGHT AGAINST DESTINY
SATOSHI-KUN WAS SO HELPLESS.
IF I COULD HAVE BEEN MION THAT DAY, LIKE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN!!
IF I HAD BEEN MION INSTEAD OF SHION!

IF I WERE MION, I COULD HAVE SAVED SATOSHI-KUN!!
THEN I COULD HAVE SAVED HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT! IT WAS HER!!
IT WAS SHION!!!

IT'S HER FAULT FOR MAKING THAT SELFISH REQUEST!!
THAT DAY, MION AND ONLY MION WAS GOING TO GET SEA BREAM SASHIMI
SO I WANTED TO FEEL A LITTLE LIKE A BIG SISTER AND GIVE MY LITTLE SISTER WHAT SHE WANTED!
BUT SHION KEPT CRYING, "NO FAIR, NO FAIR!"
I FELT BAD FOR SHION ...!
BECAUSE MION'S THE ONE WHO GETS ALL THE GOOD THINGS!

ALL I DID WAS GIVE MY LITTLE SISTER SOME-THING SHE WANTED !!
BUT WHEN THE DAWN CAME, THE WORLD HAD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN...
...AND EVERY-THING IS STILL FLIPPED OVER TODAY ...

WHY DOES BATCHA HATE ME?
WHY IS EVERYONE SO COLD TO ME?
WHY?
WHY DOES EVERYONE TRY TO MAKE US DIFFERENT...?
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CHANGE OUR HAIR...
AND TRADE CLOTHES...
AND NO ONE CAN TELL US APART...
SO WHY?
CHAPTER 18

CHAPTER 18: MION AND SHION

I WANT TO TRY IT
I'VE NEVER HAD SEA BREAM SASHIMI
GUSU (SNIFFLES)
OKAY
I FELT BAD FOR SHION
NO FAIR!
YOU GET ALL THE GOOD STUFF, MION.
WAAAHHH!
THAT'S RIGHT... AND SO THAT DAY WAS NO DIFFERENT
WAAAHHH!
SO I LENT "MION" TO SHION
PAA (BEAM)
I'LL TRADE PLACES WITH YOU TODAY
AND I WENT TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK WITH MOM AND DAD
SHION WENT TO OUR RELATIVES' BANQUET WITH BATCHA

WAIT! WAIT!!

WAIT! WAIT, BATCHA!
THE ONE WITH THE DEMON IS MION. THE ONE WITHOUT IT IS SHION.
I'M MION!!
WHAT THE HECK!?
MOM!
MOM, YOU CAN TELL US APART, RIGHT?
TELL EVERYONE THAT I'M MION!
I'M MION!!
I'M MION!!
I'M MION!!

DON'T CALL ME SHION !!

...BUT SHE TREATED HER AS IF SHE DIDN'T EXIST.
ONI-BABA DIDN'T KILL SHION.
"IF TWO ARE BORN, DISPOSE OF THE EXCESS."
YOU KNEW
YOU KNEW WHAT OUR RELATIVES WERE GETTING TOGETHER FOR THAT NIGHT.
YOU KNEW IT WASN'T JUST A BANQUET!
WAAAAH!
WAAAAH!

I DIDN'T KNOW!
I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW!!
YOU'RE LYING! YOU WERE NEVER AS ANNOYINGLY PERSISTENT AS YOU WERE THAT DAY!
NORMALLY, YOU JUST LET IT GO BUT ON THAT DAY YOU KEPT CRYING!!
YOU WERE ALWAYS JEALOUS!! YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WASN'T FAIR FOR MION TO GET EVERY-THING!!
SO I WOULD TRADE WITH YOU SOME-TIMES, BUT IT ONLY MADE YOU MORE JEALOUS!!
ギリッ
YOU FOUND OUT THE SIGNIFI-CANCE OF THAT NIGHT
AND YOU STOLE MION FROM ME!!
TAKE YOUR HAIR DOWN! SHION!!
I'M MION!!
YOU'RE SHION, YOU IMPOS-TOR!!

THE DEMON TATTOO WAS JUST A CODE, SO OTHER PEOPLE COULD TELL US APART!
YES
ONEE
I DON'T NEED THE DEMON TO BE MION!!
I AM MION SONO-ZAKI!!
AS MION, THE HEIR TO THE SONOZAKI FAMILY DEMON, YOU WERE IN A POSITION TO SAVE SATOSHI-KUN
SHION, YOU ARE GUILTY
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR STEAL-ING MION FROM ME AND KILLING SATOSHI-KUN

I'LL KILL YOU IN A WAY THAT WILL SUFFICIENTLY AVENGE SATOSHI-KUN!!
I WILL KILL YOU!
THEN YOU CAN GO APOLOGIZE TO SATOSHI-KUN ON THE OTHER SIDE!!
I WILL SPEND EVERY DAY THINKING OF THE CRUELEST POSSIBLE WAY TO KILL YOU!!
AND AFTER I KILL YOU, I'LL TOSS YOU IN THE WELL WITH SATOSHI-KUN!

HELLO, SONOZAKI RESIDENCE.
I'm terribly sorry for calling you so late at night, but is Rika there?
OH... SHE STOPPED BY
Thank you for always being so kind. This is Hojo calling.
ACTUALLY, WE MADE A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR DINNER TONIGHT SO WE'RE ENTERTAINING RIKA-CHAN HERE.
EHHH!? IS THAT SO?
NNGH.

YOU SHOULD COME, SATOKO ...
WE HAVE ENOUGH FOR YOU TOO.
RIKA-CHAN'S ALREADY EATEN.
EH!?
KEIICHI! PHONE!
IT'S SONOZAKI-SAN.
チン
CHIN (DING)

Don't forget that we're in a situation where that's not necessarily the case.
SAFE...? OF COURSE I'M SAFE.
HELLO ?
Kei-chan? This is Shion. It looks like you're safe.
THIS IS A BLUFF TO GIVE KEIICHI A GREATER SENSE OF IMMINENT DANGER
Actually... I kind of feel like I'm being watched.
WHAT!?
IT MIGHT ONLY BE MY IMAGINATION, BUT YOU BE CAREFUL TOO, KEI-CHAN.
Yeah
NOW THAT THE HEADS OF THE THREE FAMILIES HAVE ALL DISAPPEARED, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE CURSE SYSTEM HAS COLLAPSED.
IN THAT CASE, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT NO ONE WILL ATTACK KEIICHI!
THE WAY HE'S ACTING, I GUESS NOTHING SUSPICIOUS HAS HAPPENED TO KEIICHI ALL DAY

THAT'S RIGHT, KEIICHI'S LIKE MY LITMUS PAPER.
I CAN FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT I'VE DESTROYED ALL MY ENEMIES BASED ON WHETHER OR NOT SOMEONE TAKES THE KEIICHI BAIT.
AND THAT WOULD MEAN THAT I HAVEN'T COMPLETED MY REVENGE
BUT IF THERE WAS SOMEONE GOING AFTER KEIICHI, THEN THAT WOULD MEAN A PART OF THE SYSTEM STILL SURVIVES.
AND EXPLAINED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE WHOLE VILLAGE OF HINAMIZAWA MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY
I STIRRED UP HIS FEAR OF MION AND THE THREE FAMILIES
NEXT, TO PUT KEIICHI EVEN MORE ON GUARD...
...So, Kei-chan...
Oh, oh yeah. Apparently the village chief has gone missing.
Do you have anything to talk about, Kei-chan?
THE VILLAGE CHIEF... YOU MEAN KIMIYOSHI-OJIICHAN?
SHION ISN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW ABOUT KIMIYOSHI'S DISAPPEARANCE

...It's.. my fault.. It's because I told him.
STOP IT. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!
I...TOLD KIMIYOSHI-OJIICHAN! ABOUT GOING INSIDE THE SAIGUDEN!!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO KEI-CHAN...?
Why didn't you tell me sooner!? That's very important!!
NO!! IT IS MY FAULT! I MEAN, IT HAP-PENED RIGHT AFTER I TOLD HIM!
I'M NOT SHAKEN UP IN THE SLIGHTEST- I'M ONLY ACTING LIKE IT...M
HEY, CALM DOWN!!
IT'S A STRANGE SENSATION
BUT THERE IS A DESIRE TO PRAY FOR HIS SAFETY BUDDING INSIDE ME
WOULDN'T THEY HAVE ERASED YOU BEFORE ERASING THE VILLAGE CHIEF JUST BECAUSE YOU TALKED TO HIM!?
No!!
THEY KILLED HIM!!
HE DISAP-PEARED THE VERY NIGHT I TOLD HIM, AND HE SAID IT WOULD BE OKAY!!

THEY'RE PLANNING TO KILL US LAST!
THEY'LL KILL EVERY-ONE WE'RE CLOSE TO IN TURN...
...AND KILL US AFTER THEY'VE PUT US THROUGH SO MUCH SADNESS!
THAT MUST BE WHAT THEY'RE TRYING TO DO!
HUH ?
WH-WHA...?
KILL EVERY-ONE WE'RE CLOSE TO IN TURN.
...AND KILL US AFTER PUTTING US THROUGH SO MUCH SADNESS
HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE I TALKED TO HIM!! HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE HE KNEW!
HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE I OPENED UP TO HIM!!!
Sh... Shion, hey...!

THAT'S FANTASTIC.

TO THINK THERE WAS SUCH AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO TORMENT A SINGLE LIFE TO ITS VERY LIMITS.
I'LL STICK EVERYONE CLOSE TO YOU, MAKE YOU WATCH AS I TORTURE THEM TO DEATH, AND IN THE END, I'LL KILL YOU.
AND THIS...

I AM NO LONGER HUMAN. I'M A DEMON
A HUMAN WOULD NEVER THINK OF ANYTHING SO CRUEL!

...IS SOME-THING I CAN CARRY OUT IMMEDI-ATELY.

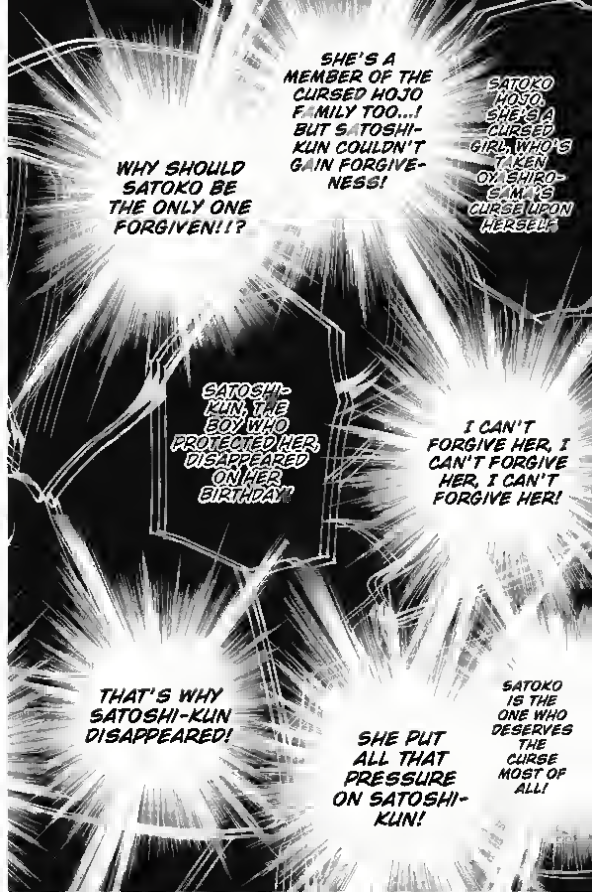
R-RIKA-CHAN!!
EH...?
I OPENED UP TO SOMEONE TOO! TO RIKA-CHAN!!
I'M SORRY! I'M GONNA CALL RIKA-CHAN!
AH HA HA HA HA!
I'VE ALREADY DISPOSED OF RIKA AND SATOKO'S BICYCLES AND SHOES
HEH HEH HEH...
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...

KEIICHI! MAKE AN... STRUGGLE IN WHATEVER WAY YOU'LL HEART LEADS YOU.
DO THE INVESTIGATING FOR ME! SEE IF THERE'S ANYONE ELSE I NEED TO TAKE VENGEANCE ON!
RUN AROUND THE VILLAGE TESTING WHETHER OR NOT THE CURSE WILL STRIKE
I'LL GO CHECK THE MAIN HOUSE!
ARE YOU THERE!?
RIKA-CHAAAN! SATOKO-CHAAAN!

THE MAIN HOUSE ?
THE HOUSE WHERE THE FURUDES REALLY LIVE BUT I HEAR IT'S BEEN LEFT EMPTY EVER SINCE HER PARENTS PASSED AWAY
SATOKO DOESN'T HAVE ANY PARENTS EITHER. HER PARENTS FELL FROM A CLIFF THREE YEARS AGO BECAUSE OF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE
AND HER BROTHER SATOSHI-KUN IS GONE TOO
SA-TOSHI
I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE
"I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE"... ...HE SAYS.
THAT DESK YOU'VE BEEN USING TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT AT SCHOOL...!
...SPILLING YOUR LUNCH ALL OVER IT!
...DOODLING ON IT WHILE YOU TAKE NAPS!
DON'T YOU KNOW WHOSE DESK IT REALLY IS?

SINCE THEN THOSE TWO HAVE LIVED TOGETHER IN THIS CABIN
THEY SAY IT'S HARD LIVING AT THEIR OLD HOUSES IT REMINDS THEM OF THEIR PARENTS
IT'S NOT KEIICHI'S FAULT IF HE DOESN'T KNOW...
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP ABOUT, MION...? SATOSHI-KUN'S VERY EXISTENCE HAS BEEN ER/SED.
DESPITE BEING A HOJO AND FURUDE, THEY'VE BEEN BEST FRIENDS SINCE BEFORE THE O.M WAR.
THAT'S RIGHT SATOKO AND RIKA ARE BEST FRIENDS
IS IT BECAUSE RIKA FURUDE ARRANGED IT THAT WAY!?
SATOKO'S THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T MET WITH OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...

IT'S MORTIFYING!!
SHE MAY HAVE ONLY BEEN AN ACTING HEAD, BUT SHION SHOULD HAVE HAD THAT SAME ABILITY!
TO THINK THAT LITTLE GIRL HAS THE POWER TO PROTECT HER BEST FRIENDS!!
JUST LIKE RIKA DEFENDED SATOKO...
RIKA-CHAN AND SATOKO SURE HAVE IT ROUGH.
SFX: BLOOD DRIPS
SHE'S CURSED.
...SHION SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEFEND SATOSHI-KUN!!
EH...?


SHE'S A MEMBER OF THE CURSED HOJO FAMILY TOO...! BUT SATOSHI-KUN COULDN'T GAIN FORGIVE-NESS!
SATOKO HOJO, SHE'S A CURSED GIRL WHO'S TAKEN OVER SHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE UPON HERSELF!
WHY SHOULD SATOKO BE THE ONLY ONE FORGIVEN!!?
SATOSHI-KUN, THE BOY WHO PROTECTED HER, DISAPPEARED ON HER BIRTHDAY!
I CAN'T FORGIVE HER, I CAN'T FORGIVE HER, I CAN'T FORGIVE HER!
THAT'S WHY SATOSHI-KUN DISAPPEARED!
SHE PUT ALL THAT PRESSURE ON SATOSHI-KUN!
SATOKO IS THE ONE WHO DESERVES THE CURSE MOST OF ALL!

THAT POOR SATOSHI-KUN!
IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER, THEN SATOSHI-KUN AND I COULD BE LIVING HAPPILY TOGETHER, JUST LIKE RIKA AND SATOKO WERE!
THE POLICE DECIDED HE RAN AWAY FROM HOME, BUT SATOSHI-KUN WASN'T THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD RUN AWAY!
UN-APPRE-CIATED SATOSHI-KUN!
SHE SHOULD HAVE DIED BY THE CURSE FIRST!
THEN SATOSHI-KUN WOULD STILL BE ALIVE! IF ONLY HE WERE ALIVE, I COULD DO ANYTHING IT TAKES TO SAVE HIM!
HE ALWAYS WORKED SO HARD FOR HIS SISTER!
IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER, SATOSHI-KUN WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO KILL HIS AUNT!
I CAN'T FORGIVE HER, I CAN'T FORGIVE HER, I CAN'T FORGIVE HER!

THERE IS CURRENTLY NO GOD IN HINAMIZAWA TO BRING DOWN THE CURSE!!
RIKA FURUDE IS DEAD.
I, MION SONOZAKI, HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY!!
I HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE THE DECISION!!
THE REINCARNATION OF OYASHIRO-SAMA IS DEAD.
SHE'S THE MOST SUITABLE VICTIM FOR THE 1983 CURSE, ISN'T SHE?

HELLO EVERYONE!
ARE WE STILL ALIVE?
ZAWA (MUTTERING)
ZAWA

キィ
キィ
キィ
MURDER-ER-
MURDER-ER...
MURDER-ER...!

NN?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
SHION-SAN?
OH, RIGHT.
I'M NOT SHION I'M THE REAL MION
THE ONE YOU THINK IS MION IS ACTUALLY SHION.
RIKA BROUGHT HER FATE UPON HERSELF. SHE CAME HERE TO KILL ME, YOU KNOW.
HOW DARE YOU DO THIS TO EVERY-ONE...?
TO RIKA...!?
YOU... YOU'RE LYING! RIKA WOULD NEVER...!

WH... WHAT...
ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.

CHAPTER 19: PROMISE

STOP IT!
DON'T KILL SATOKO !!
THAT'S WHY SATOSHI-KUN WAS KILLED LIKE AN INSECT!!
YOU DIDN'T STOP WHEN IT WAS SATOSHI-KUN!
DO YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND YOUR CRIME NOW!!?
YOU LET HIM DIE!!
ONEE
STOP
YOU HAD TEN BILLION CHANCES TO SAVE SATOSHI-KUN, AND YOU THREW THEM ALL AWAY!

THAT IS YOUR CRIME!!
AAAA

STOP!!
STOP!!
AAAH!!!
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME!
YOU SCREAMING NOW? THAT'S JUST HOW I WAS A YEAR AGO!!
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LOUDLY YOU SCREAM! THOSE SCREAMS WON'T BE HEARD!
YOU CAN'T SAVE HER!
BUT PLEASE FORGIVE SATOKO!
YOU CAN'T HELP HER!!
TASTE THE PAIN OF BEING UNABLE TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS!!

ALL RIGHT, SHION
STOP, NEE-SAN!!
UGYAHH
IF YOU SAY "I'M SORRY" TEN THOUSAND TIMES I'LL SPARE SATOKO.
STOP!
AHHH
YOU DO HAVE A PATENT ON CRYING, DON'T YOU?
AHHH UWAAH!
WHEN YOU COUNT UP TO EXACTLY TEN THOU-SAND I'LL FORGIVE HER.
I'M SOR-RY!
I'M SOR-RY!
I'M SOR-RY!
WILL YOUR NII-NII COME SAVE YOU IF YOU CRY?

NII-NII!
NII-NII
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU ONLY HAD TO CRY FOR YOUR NII-NII!!
ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS CRY, AND SATOSHI-KUN WOULD COME DEFEND YOU! BUT GUESS WHAT!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH PRESSURE THAT PUT ON SATOSHI-KUN!?
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THAT CRIME, STARTING NOW
GUGYA!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
AND I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU DO IT!!
HAVE YOU LOST THE FEELING IN YOUR RIGHT ARM ALREADY?
THEN LET'S GO WITH YOUR LEFT ARM!!
... YES ...
ME TOO ...

I...
...THOUGHT SO TOO...
I WAS SPOILED
I DROVE NII-NII TO THE EDGE
I COULDN'T STOP CLINGING TO NII-NII
ON THE DAY THAT NII-NII VANISHED
—THAT'S WHY HE DISAP-PEARED

WELL, THAT IS A SURPRISE.
TO THINK, YOU REALIZED HOW GUILTY YOU WERE.
I...
...ALREADY KNEW.
I'M SURE THAT NII-NII WILL COME BACK!
WHEN HE DOES, I'LL SHOW HIM THAT I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!
I WON'T CRY TO NII-NII ANYMORE!!
I'LL LET HIM KNOW THAT I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF NOW!
I WON'T HIDE BEHIND HIM!

THAT WOULD BE GREAT IF HE CAME BACK!
HA HA !!
HA HA HA HA!
IF HE COMES BACK!
GIH!
NII-NII WILL COME BACK!
UNTIL THEN... I CAN'T BE BEATEN !!
I KNOW HE WILL! I KNOW IT!!
THEN I'LL APOLOGIZE FOR BEING SUCH A BABY ALL THAT TIME!!
I CAN'T BE BEAT-EN!!

I'LL NEVER RUN CRYING TO NII-NII AGAIN!
Y YOU LITTLE ...
IF I CRY, NII-NII WILL COME HERE!
SO I'LL BEAR IT ALL BY MYSELF !!
I WON'T CALL FOR HIM!
I WON'T CRY!
I WON'T SCREAM !!

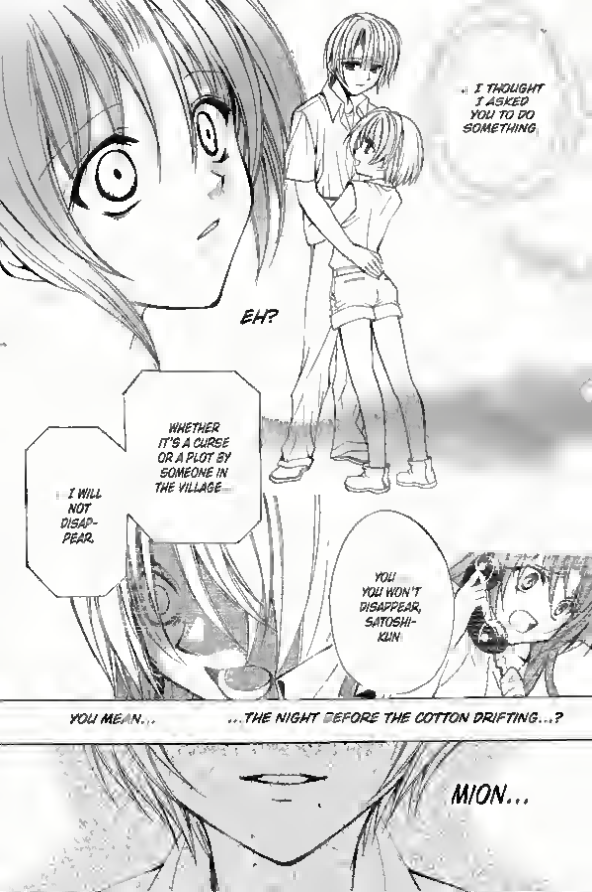
NII-NII
YOU'RE WATCHING ME, RIGHT ..?
SEE HOW STRONG SATOKO IS NOW .?
I I WON'T CRY
..OVER A LITTLE THING LIKE THIS I WON'T CALL FOR HELP..
...BECAUSE THIS IS NOWHERE NEAR ALL THE PAIN THAT YOU FELT...
...WHEN YOU GOT HURT FOR ME...

HUFF
HUFF

I COULDN'T
CRUSH SATOKO'S STRENGTH
SATOKO WAITED, BELIEVING IN THE DAY THAT SATOSHI-KUN WOULD COME BACK
WANTING TO SHOW HIM HOW TOUGH SHE'D BECOME
IT WAS THE ONE WHO DOESN'T THINK FOR A SECOND THAT SATOSHI-KUN WILL COME BACK
THE ONE WHO HAS NO INTENTION OF WAITING FOR HIS RETURN
IT WAS ME
AND IT WASN'T SATOSHI-KUN...
WHO CONFIRMED THAT SHE HAD GAINED STRENGTH
SATOSHI-KUN!

IT'S OKAY...
...YOU CAN CRY NOW.

AAHHH!
SATOSHI-KUN
SHION
あああああん
WAAAAHHH!


I THOUGHT I ASKED YOU TO DO SOMETHING
EH?
WHETHER IT'S A CURSE OR A PLOT BY SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE...
I WILL NOT DISAP-PEAR.
YOU YOU WON'T DISAPPEAR, SATOSHI-KUN
YOU MEAN...
...THE NIGHT BEFORE THE COTTON DRIFTING...?
MION...

TAKE CARE...
...OF SATOKO FOR ME.
SATOSHI KUN
GASU (GAS)
GASU (GAS)

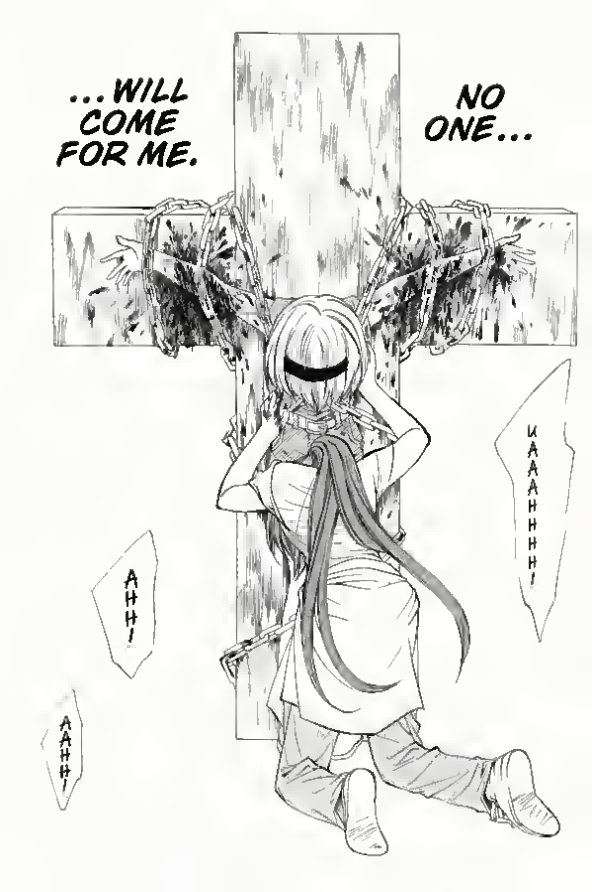
WHAT ...
...AM I...?
AAAAHH!!
...WAS COUNTING ON ME!!

...LAST FAVOR...
...THE ONE...
...THAT SATOSHI-KUN WAS COUNTING ON ME FOR.
NOT BELIEVING IN SATOSHI-KUN'S RETURN.
I FORGOT.
UNABLE TO WAIT FOR SATOSHI-KUN'S RETURN...
...I FILLED MYSELF WITH THE DEMON AND ACTED OUT.

SATOKO HAD TO GET STRONGER
AND I...
...HAD TO LOOK AFTER SATOKO IN SATOSHI-KUN'S PLACE
SATOSHI-KUN WAITED FOR SATOKO AND FOR ME
BUT I COULDN'T KEEP THE PROMISE THAT I HAD TO FULFILL IN ORDER TO BE REUNITED WITH HIM
SATOKO KEPT HER PROMISE
THAT'S WHY, IN THE END, SATOSHI-KUN EMBRACED HER.
I...
AND ME...?

...NEVER DID A THING TO KEEP MY PROMISE.
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I...

SATO..
KO..
I...
I...
HAH
(CRACK)
GH..
NGH..
NGH..
SA..
TOKO
NGH!
UNNGH
..!
UWAH!
AAAHHHH!


...WILL COME FOR ME.
NO ONE...
AAAAHHHH!
AHH!
AAHH!

NGH...
NNH...
NGH NNH
NNNGH...
ぴた
(KITA (SETTLE))
ボウ

THE THING STANDING STILL BEHIND ME.
I FINALLY REALIZE.
OH
...OR SOME CREEPY PRESENCE THAT WOULD SOMETIMES SCARE ME.
IT WASN'T SATOSHI-KUN...
IT WAS ...
ME...
WAIT !!
SHE TURNED

I DON'T LIKE THIS DARK PLACE!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I'M ABANDONED BY MYSELF TOO!?
SATOSHI-KUN'S ABAN-DONED ME!
I HATE THIS FILTHY, BLOOD-STAINED PLACE!
I HATE IT!!
IF MYSELF ABANDONS ME, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY FLESH!?
DON'T LEAVE ME HERE ALONE !!
... HAVE ANYTHING LEFT.
I WON'T ...

NNH
NSH
GH
HN HEH HEH
OH, COME ON
EVEN I KNEW...
...FILLING THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...
...LL I'LL HAVE LEFT...
...WILL BE THE TWISTED, FILTHY DEMON.

...I'M ALREADY... A DEMON.
DEMONS DON'T FEEL SADNESS!
A DEMON'S HEART FEELS NO PAIN!
A DEMON DOESN'T NEED TO CRY!!
SHION! YOU CAN STOP COUNTING NOW! THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
UWAHAHA!
AH-HA-HA! IT'S NOT SO BAD BEING A DEMON!
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS SO FUN TO HEAR PEOPLE SCREAM AND CRY!

OH RIGHT SHION
YOU LIKE KEI-CHAN, DON'T YOU?
ALL RIGHT!
I'LL TEAR KEI-CHAN APART RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES!
THEN I'LL KILL YOU!
AND KILL MYSELF !!
AND THEN I'LL GO BACK TO THE LAND OF DEMONS!

THIS IS SHION
HOW WAS RIKA-CHAN?
AH HA HA HA HA HA!!
They can't find her. And Satoko's disappeared too...
OH, KEI-CHAN... DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN...
KEIICHI ...
Hey Shion
What do you think happened to Rika chan and Satoko...?
...I'M... ...A DEMON NOW...
I THINK THEY'VE BEEN KILLED
...SO I WON'T MAKE ANY EXCUSES.

UWA
AAAHHH!
AS LONG AS THEY'RE NOT USING THEM AS HOSTAGES IT WOULD MAKE THE MOST SENSE TO KILL THEM ONCE THEY WERE DONE WITH THEM.
I THINK IT WOULD BE REALLY HARD TO KIDNAP SOMEONE AND KEEP THEM ALIVE
U—
Uh..!
Hasn't the curse done enough!!?
Why!? The dam disputes ended a long time ago!
Why does someone in Hinamizawa have to die every year on the night of the Cotton Drifting!?
Tell me ...!
THAT WAY THEY'VE CREATED A SYSTEM FOR ELIMINATING THE VILLAGE'S ENEMIES!
SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE IS USING OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE TO JUSTIFY REPEATEDLY KILLING AND CAUSING DISAPPEARANCES EVERY COTTON DRIFTING!

Then why Rika-chan and Satoko!?
They had nothing to do with the dam disputes!
So why !!?
Who the hell would do something like that !!?
Who !?
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, KEI-CHAN.
Who !?
AAAHHH!!
THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THESE PEOPLE TO BE CURSED, SO WHY!!?

I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THAT ACCURSED HOJO BOY
...WAS KILLED BECAUSE I OPENED UP TO HIM..
AND MY ONE FRIEND, KIMIYOSHI-OJIICHAN...
IT'S HARD FOR ME TOO.
SOBBED CHIEF
THERE'S NO ONE IN MY FAMILY I CAN DEPEND ON.
SOBBED
HIC
HIC
HIC

When... did you open up to him?

The village chief got back to the village right before the village meeting and disappeared right after!!
In other words!
UM...
WELL...
The village chief was at the hospital that day. He hadn't told anyone.
Did you know about the hospital, Shion?
EH?

There wasn't any time for you to open up to him!!
Shion went missing the day after the Cotten Drifting!
UM... WELL... ACTUALLY, I WAS AT THE VILLAGE MEETING TOO
Shion!! You never saw the village chief!
HIC
HIC
HIC
HEH
HEH
HEH
You never opened up to him!

HEH HA HA HA HA HA HA!
HEH...
HEH HEH...

WELL DONE, KEI-CHAN
THAT'S RIGHT, IT WAS ME
I DID IT...
...HURRY AND...
HURRY AND CHASE ME DOWN...
...RELEASE ME...

CHAPTER 20

CHAPTER 20: CONFESSION

RIKA-CHAN AND SATOKO CAME TO YOUR HOUSE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, DIDN'T THEY...?
MION
I DON'T REMEMBER. WHY DO YOU THINK SO...?
YOU SAW RIKA-CHAN'S ROOM, DIDN'T YOU MII-CHAN?
RENA'S DEDUCTION WAS FLAWLESS. HER CONFIDENCE COULD NOT BE SHAKEN. SHE HAD ME CORNERED
RENA... YOU'RE QUITE THE DETECTIVE...
OOISHI-SAN'S MEN ARE WATCHING THIS HOUSE, READY TO BREAK IN AT ANY TIME
MION...! THE POLICE ALREADY SUSPECT YOU!

NOW, LET THE GAME BEGIN.
A GAME OF MURDER, IN WHICH THE DEMON REPEATS A TRAGEDY, ALL IN THE NAME OF AVENGING SATOSHI-KUN.
LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM MION, THE HEIR TO THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.
IT WOULD SEEM THERE ARE VERY MANY THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK ME
AH-HA-HA-HA! TO THINK I'D HAVE SUCH A BRILLIANT DETECTIVE SO CLOSE BY..!
YOU GOT ME. YOU GOT ME!

I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER, WITHOUT HIDING ANYTHING
IF YOU CAN DETERMINE THAT I AM NOT YOUR BEST FRIEND "MION" BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, THEN YOU WIN.
THE DEMON WILL TRY TO CAPTURE KEIICHI, TO KILL HIM IN FRONT OF SHION.
NOW, SEE IF YOU CAN FIGURE OUT WHO I REALLY AM.

KEIICHI AND RENA WERE COMPLETELY TAKEN IN BY THE HISTORY OF ONIGAFUCHI VILLAGE
THEY WERE PROBABLY LOOKING FOR A REASON TO EXPLAIN HOW THEIR FRIEND WENT MAD, SO I MADE ONE UP
ARE THEY FORCING THEMSELVES TO ACCEPT THAT THEIR BEST FRIEND COMMITTED SUCH CRIMES OVER SUCH A STUPID REASON?
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO SATISFY YOURSELVES
...IT DOESN'T CHANGE A THING.
WHATEVER MY MOTIVE MAY BE...
A CRIMINAL.
A MURDERER.
I AM A DEMON.
WE IN THE SONOZAKI FAMILY HAVE HAD A TRADITION FOR GENERATIONS OF INCLUDING THE CHARACTER FOR "DEMON" IN THE FAMILY HEADS' NAMES.
INHERIT'S THE "DEMON"?
THERE'S A DEMON IN THE "MI" IN MION...
—THAT IS OUR DEAREST WISH AS DESCENDANTS OF ONIGAFUCHI VILLAGE, AND THE DESTINY OF THE ONE WHO INHERITS THE "DEMON" OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY
TO MAKE HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE INTO SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE REVERED LIKE ONIGAFUCHI VILLAGE WAS—

I'M NOT SAYING IT'S OKAY TO KILL OTHER PEOPLE...
...BUT YOU KILLED RIKA-CHAN AND SATOKO-CHAN, MII-CHAN!
I WON'T MAKE EXCUSES... THERE'S A DEMON LIVING INSIDE ME...
...BUT IT WASN'T THE DEMON WHO DID ANY OF IT. IT WAS MOST DEFINITELY MION SONOZAKI HERSELF.
BUT, MII-CHAN— RIKA-CHAN AND SATOKO-CHAN. YOU KILLED THEM, DIDN'T YOU...?
DO YOU SERIOUSLY STILL BELIEVE I'M YOUR BEST FRIEND "MION"?
AND IT'S NOT ONLY THE NAME. THE DEMON IS CARVED INTO MY BODY.
IT'S OKAY MII-CHAN YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW US
THANK YOU...
HA-HA. I THOUGHT SHE'D SAY THAT

MII-CHAN, WILL YOU TURN YOURSELF IN?
RENA... IS THAT AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO? I THOUGHT IF ANYONE COULD, YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE WHO I REALLY AM.
I'D LIKE YOU TO LISTEN TO ONE LAST SELFISH REQUEST
I THINK SHION LIKED YOU TOO, KEI-CHAN.
HEY, YOU AND SHION WERE CLOSE, WEREN'T YOU?
OH...

I DON'T KNOW. DO YOU THINK YOUR RIGHT AND LEFT HANDS GET ALONG KEI-CHAN?
MY RIGHT AND LEFT HANDS? THEY'RE NOT SOMETHING YOU REALLY TALK ABOUT GETTING ALONG OR NOT
THAT'S WHAT WE WERE LIKE
YOU COULDN'T MEASURE OUR RELATIONSHIP ON A SCALE ACCORDING TO HOW WELL WE GOT ALONG
FROM THE MOMENT WE WERE BORN, WE WERE TOGETHER WE WERE A SET
WHO AM I?
I WAS MION. I WAS SHION. I SHOULD HAVE ACCEPTED THAT
BUT NOW I DON'T KNOW IF I'M MION OR SHION ANYMORE
REALLY!?
SHION IS STILL ALIVE
COME ON. I WANT YOU TO SEE ALL OF MY CRIMES
BUT IT MIGHT BE THE MOST PAINFUL THING YOU'LL EVER SEE, KEI-CHAN
WHATEVER I MAY SEE...
KUSHA (SNIFFLE)

...YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND, MION.
KEIICHI AND SATOSHI-KUN ARE SUPPOSED TO BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
IT DOESN'T ...
...FEEL GOOD AT ALL
IT DOESN'T MAKE ME HAPPY TO HAVE HIS ROUGH HANDS PAT MY HEAD

...WHY SHE LOVES HIM
...I THINK I UNDERSTAND
BUT
I KILLED THEM ALL RIGHT HERE.
THERE WASN'T ANY AUDIENCE TO WATCH. BUT I PERFORMED THE COTTON DRIFTING BEAUTIFULLY.
NO...I SUPPOSE THERE WAS ONE AUDIENCE MEMBER.
ME.
THE DEMON THAT IS ME WATCHED THE ENTIRE TIME AS MION PERFORMED THE COTTON DRIFTING.
KEIICHI, HOW MANY HINTS DO I HAVE TO GIVE YOU BEFORE YOU FIGURE OUT THAT I'M NOT YOUR BEST FRIEND?

IS IT THAT EASY FOR YOU TO MAKE THE "MION" IN YOUR HEART INTO A SERIAL KILLER?
YOU TWO ARE HER BEST FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU?
DON'T YOU TRUST HER?
...YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THAT I'M NOT YOUR BESTFRIEND "MION"...I'M SOMEONE ELSE WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE HER.
IF YOU COULD SINCERELY BELIEVE TO THE VERY END LIKE SATOKO DID...
TRY BELIEVING THAT THERE'S NO CHANCE YOUR BEST FRIEND WOULD BE A HOMICIDAL MANIAC.
SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T DESERVE TO LIVE...
IF YOU CAN'T
YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN ME, SOMEONE WHO SO EASILY KILLED THE SATOSHI-KUN IN HER HEART, JUST LIKE WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW

KEI-CHAN ...
IT'S OKAY NOW.
KEI-CHAN ...!
IS THAT YOU, KEI-CHAN!?
KEI-CHAN ...
SHION !?

GAME OVER.

HITO (2YEARS) WITH
GU COCO
DON'T KILL ANY MORE PEOPLE!!
I'M THE ONE YOU HATE!! KILL ME!!
MION... YOU TELL HER TOO
SHION! IT'S OVER NOW!
NOOOO!! RUUUN!!

AHHAHAHAHAHA!
AHHAHAHAHAHA!
MY REVENGE FOR SATOSHI-KUN
IT WAS SOMETHING SATOSHI-KUN NEVER WANTED FOR A SECOND.
IT WAS FOR MY OWN SELF-SATISFACTION
STOP!
I CAN'T FACE SATOSHI-KUN ANYMORE.
SO I CAN AT LEAST CLOSE THE CURTAIN IN A WAY I APPROVE OF.

NOW, I WILL COMPLETE MY REVENGE PLAY.
I WON'T ASK FOR ANYONE'S PITY.
I WON'T ACT LIKE A TRAGIC PRINCESS.
I WILL BECOME A MURDEROUS DEMON WITH ABSOLUTELY NO ROOM FOR PITY.

NOOOOOOOOO!
RELAX! I'LL MAKE SURE TO KILL YOU!!
AFTER LETTING YOU HEAR PLENTY OF KEI-CHAN'S SCREAMS!!
NGH
I DON'T CARE HOW YOU KILL ME, BUT PLEASE, SPARE KEI-CHAN!
HEH HEH HEH
M-MION-NEESAMA! PLEASE!
FINALLY AWAKE?
CUT IT OUT

HUH? I'M MION
KEI-CHAN!?
...ARE YOU...?
WHO ...
OKAY... IT'S ALL RIGHT...
I'LL LISTEN TO HIM
WHAT DO I DO? I ALREADY DECIDED IT WAS GAME OVER.
NO, YOU'RE NOT.
—SAVE THE GIRL WHO LOVED YOU.
NOW GUESS, KEI-CHAN.
—WHO AM I?
THEN IF I'M NOT MION...

A DEMON.
EH?
WAIT ARE YOU OKAY? HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY FROM FEAR?
YOU'RE NOT MION! GIVE BACK THE MION WHO I WAS WITH EARLIER!
QUIET, DEMON!!
AH HA HA HA HA!
SO I'M NOT MION OR SHION.
I COULDN'T EVEN GET HIM TO THINK THAT I WAS SHION.
NO...
.... THAT'S NOT IT..
KEIICHI PROTECTED THE MION IN HIS HEART..
...AND...

...HE PROTECTED THE SHION IN HIS HEART TOO.

YOU COULDN'T BE MORE RIGHT!
I'M A DEMON, HUH?
SO I'M NOT MION OR SHION.
AH HA HA HA HA
MION! DON'T LOSE TO A STUPID DEMON!
MION!
THAT'S RIGHT I LOST TO THE DEMON. HOW DID YOU KNOW?
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT I DIDN'T FIGHT IT!?
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?
I'M WEAK.
I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CONCEIVE A DEMON.
WHY—!?
WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?
MION... ...HUH... WHY...

KEI-CHAN... YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY ...?
IT WAS A VERY LONG TIME AGO THAT THE DEMON CAME TO LIVE INSIDE ME.
THE DEMON ATE AWAY AT ME AND TRIED TO SPUR ME TO VIOLENCE, BUT I HELD IT BACK WITH SENSE AND REASON.
I THOUGHT I HAD QUIETED THE DEMON AND THAT IT HAD GONE AWAY SOME-WHERE.
BUT THE TRUTH WAS DIFFER-ENT
IT WAS ONLY SLEEPING INSIDE ME.
DO YOU REMEMBER? THE DOLL YOU GOT ON THE DAY OF THE GAME TOURNAMENT?
IT WAS...
AND A LITTLE THING CAUSED THE DEMON TO AWAKEN.
IF YOU HAD GIVEN THE DOLL TO ME BACK THEN, MAYBE THINGS WOULDN'T HAVE GONE CRAZY.
...BE-CAUSE OF YOU.

BACK THEN...
SHION CRIED
I WAS JEALOUS BECAUSE THE PERSON SHE LOVED WAS ALIVE AND SO CLOSE TO HER
THAT SMALL PIECE OF JEALOUSY AWAKENED THE DEMON SLEEPING IN MY HEART
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
NGH!
NH!
NOW, ARE YOU READY? I'M ABOUT TO GET STARTED
IF THAT WOULD QUIET MION'S DEMON.
DO YOU REALLY MEAN THAT?
YES... IN EXCHANGE, PROMISE ME TWO THINGS.

WHEN YOU'VE HURT ME UNTIL YOU RE SATISFIED
FORGIVE SHION.
I'M MION
YOU... EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS YOU WORRY ABOUT SHION MORE THAN YOURSELF?
WHY AM I GETTING SO WORKED UP?
SO YOU DON'T THINK OF BEGGING FOR YOUR LIFE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
GIVE THAT BODY BACK TO MION
THE OTHER PROMISE IS YOU DISAPPEAR ONCE YOU'RE SATISFIED
THAT'S TOO BAD...
YOU SAID TWO AT THE BEGINNING YOU DON'T GET ANY MORE
MAKE THE THIRD ONE NOT TO KILL ME
CAN I CHANGE MY PROMISES FROM TWO TO THREE?

NOW I UNDER-STAND.
I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY WHY SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
I PROB-ABLY WON'T KEEP THOSE PROMISES YOU KNOW? I'M A DEMON, AFTER ALL
WELL THEN THERE'LL BE NOTHING ANYBODY CAN DO
NOW DO IT.
KEI-CHAN
I COULD GRANT YOUR THIRD WISH
EH?
YOUR FIRST WISH— TO SAVE SHION— THAT'S NO LONGER POS-SIBLE.
THE DEMON WILL KILL SHION THAT'S ALREADY BEEN SET I CAN'T STOP IT
AND YOUR SECOND WISH— TO GIVE THIS BODY BACK TO MION— THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE TOO

TODAY WAS THE CUTOFF DATE MION WON'T EVER COME BACK
AFTER TODAY, I MAY LOOK LIKE ME, BUT THAT WILL BE A DEMON WITH MY FORM—
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!
SHE'LL NEVER COME BACK...? DON'T SAY THOSE SAD THINGS!
I'M SORRY—FOR DEFILING MION
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, THE MION IN MY HEART WON'T CHANGE
BUT FORGET ME.
IF YOU SEE ME AFTER TODAY, DON'T APPROACH ME.
BECAUSE I'LL BE THE DEMON POSSESSING MY CORPSE

SHION YOU CAN COME OUT NOW
GACHA GACHA
NN NNSH

THANK YOU—.
I ONLY KNOCKED OUT KEI-CHAN WITH THE STUN GUN
THE POLICE ARE ALMOST HERE, SO HE'LL BE RELEASED
THANK YOU NNH

...I'M GIVING MION BACK TO YOU.
EH?
WE'RE TRADING.
TAKE OFF THOSE CLOTHES
BUT I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET, SHION
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE
BUT BEFORE THAT...

PLEASE YOU GO FIRST.
WE'RE GOING TO LOOK FOR THE HIDDEN PASSAGE THAT'S SUPPOSEDLY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL.

ONEE...
CHÄN?

I SAVED KEI-CHAN, JUST LIKE YOU WANTED.
AND YOU SAID I COULD KILL YOU INSTEAD, RIGHT?
YOU'RE GOING TO FALL FROM HERE AND DIE, DRESSED AS MION.
AND I'M DRESSED AS SHION, SO KEI-CHAN WILL TESTIFY THAT I WAS THE VICTIM.
I'LL WAIT IN THE STONE CELL FOR THE POLICE TO COME GET ME.
WELL, THEY'LL PROBABLY FIGURE IT OUT WITH FINGER-PRINTS OR SOMETHING, BUT I'LL HAVE HIDDEN MYSELF SOMEWHERE BY THEN.
IF YOU KILL ME...
...THAT WILL AVENGE SATOSHI?

...ONEE...
...SA-TOSHI...
FALL DOWN THERE AND APOLOGIZE TO SATOSHI.
IF YOU KNOW THAT MUCH, THEN YOU MUST BE READY FOR IT.
YOU SAID YOU TOSSED HIM DOWN HERE.
OH? DIDN'T YOU SAY HE WAS?
...I DID SAY THAT.
IF HE WAS KILLED BY THE SONOZAKI FAMILY, THEN I THINK HE WOULD HAVE BEEN THROWN DOWN HERE.
...ISN'T...
...AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS WELL.
EXPLAINING IT TO YOUR BIG SISTER IN A WAY THAT'S A LITTLE EASIER TO UNDERSTAND.
THIS IS GETTING COMPLICATED

I...
...LOVED SATOSHI TOO.
HE WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME TO LOVE HIM. AFTER ALL
FIG-URES
SO WHEN SATOSHI DISAP-PEARED I WAS SO SAD AND ANGRY
I DID A LOT OF INVESTI-GATING
I... APPROACHED BATCHA... I WAS READY TO STRANGLE HER.
AND BATCHA TOLD ME
THIS IS SOMETHING I WILL ONLY TELL THE NEXT HEAD OF THE FAMILY.
YOU MUST KEEP IT A SECRET

...DID ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
THE SONOZAKI FAMILY...
EVERYONE BELIEVED THAT THE SONOZAKI FAMILY WAS PULLING THE STRINGS.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WHEN THE MURDER HAPPENED AT THE DAM SITE...
AND IN REALITY, THEY DID USE UNLAWFUL METHODS TO PROTEST DURING THE DAM WAR.
IT'S TRUE THAT THE SONOZAKI FAMILY HAS A STRONG INFLUENCE IN THE UNDERWORLD THROUGH OUR FATHER'S CONNECTIONS AS A YAKUZA BOSS.
...SO EVERYONE BELIEVED, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THAT SHE WAS THE MASTERMIND.
AND HATCHA WOULD SMILE SUGGESTIVELY AND SAY SUSPICIOUS THINGS...
...A LIE? THEY USED WHENEVER THERE WAS A CONVENIENT COINCIDENCE. THAT MADE IT LOOK LIKE THE SONOZAKIS HAD INSTIGATED THE CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.
BUT THAT WAS... AN ACT HANDED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS OF SONOZAKI FAMILY LEADERS...

OUR RELATIVES BELIEVED, "SURELY ORYOU INSTIGATED IT"
...BATCHA SMILED SUGGES-TIVELY.
WHEN THEY FOUND THE DISMEMBERED BODY OF THE DAM DIRECTOR...
...AND SATOSHI'S CLINVENT MISSING...
...AND WHEN SATOSHI-KUN'S ALINT DIED...
...WHEN THE "FURUDE COUPLE" MET WITH UNNATURAL DEATHS...
WHEN THE HOJO COUPLE FELL FROM THE VIEWING PLATFORM...
...SUGGES-TIVELY.
...OF COURSE SHE SMILED.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THE SONOZAKIS WEREN'T INVOLVED !?
Y-YOU'RE LYING!!
EVERYONE BELIEVED THAT THE SONOZAKI FAMILY WAS CAUSING THE INCI-DENTS.

I DON'T THINK...
THAT BATCHA WOULD LIE TO ME!
ESPECIALLY ABOUT SATOSHI-KUN'S DISAPPEARANCE SHE SAID SHE REALLY DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING
I MEAN, BATCHA LET YOU HAVE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SATOSHI-KUN!
YOU DID A GOOD JOB TEARING OFF YOUR FINGER-NAILS, SO SHE SAID SHE WOULD FORGET THE WHOLE THING!
IT'S A LIE, IT'S A LIE!
SO THEN WHO ERASED SATOSHI-KUN!?
YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CURSE SYSTEM TOO, DON'T YOU?
ONI-BABA DOESN'T HAVE TO GIVE ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTACK SATOSHI-KUN. SOMEONE WILL ANTICIPATE HER DESIRES AND DO IT ANYWAY— THAT'S HOW IT WORKS!!!
BATCHA SAID SHE HAD BEEN LOOKING INTO...
...WHO WAS CAUSING OYAMADA-SAMA'S CURSE FOR A LONG TIME.
BUT...SHE COULDN'T FIND THEM.
WHO!? WHO!?

EVERYONE BELIEVES THAT IT'S SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE.
BUT THERE'S NO SUCH PERSON IN THE VILLAGE!!
...I DON'T KNOW...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT RIKA CHAN WOULD DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT
I THINK TOMITAKE WAS PROBABLY KILLED WITH THE SAME INJECTION WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
...I TOLD YOU THAT RIKA FURUDE CAME AT ME WITH A SYRINGE THAT WOULD MAKE ME SCRATCH MY THROAT OUT.

SHE DIDN'T KNOW REALLY THAT TERRIBLE DEED.
AND SHE DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE FURUDE FAMILY WAS ACTUALLY CARRYING OUT THE CURSE.
...DIDN'T HAVE AS STRONG A GRASP ON EVERYTHING ABOUT HINAMIZAWA AS WE THOUGHT SHE DID.
IN THAT CASE, ONI-BABA...
I THINK THAT NEITHER SHION NOR ONI-BABA WAS LYING.
KIMIYOSHI BELIEVED TO THE END THAT THE SONOZAKIS WERE BEHIND IT ALL.
THE KIMIYOSHI FAMILY DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING EITHER
IS IT THE FURUDE FAMILY?
RIKA'S BEHAVIOR, THE ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO BLINDLY FOLLOW HER...
WAS A POWER CENTERED AROUND THE FURUDE FAMILY WORKING IN THE SHADOWS?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. IT'S UNTHINKABLE. IT'S ABSURD!
MR. AND MRS. FURUDE WERE BURIED BY THE CURSE
IT CAN'T BE...

...I'M ABOUT TO CLOSE THE CURTAIN, AND I STILL HAVE THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT THE DARK SECRETS OF HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE... IS THAT IT?
...NOW... THAT I'VE KILLED THE HEADS OF THE THREE FAMILIES...
IN OTHER WORDS...
SO...
...WHAT ABOUT MY REVENGE PLAY?
...LOTS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE?
DOES THIS MEAN I'VE KILLED ...

YOU'RE GOOD, SHION
HA...
SO AT THE VERY LAST SECOND, YOU'RE TRYING TO TURN MY REVENGE PLAY UPSIDE DOWN?
I... DIDN'T LET SA-TOSHI DIE.
ONEE-CHAN... BELIEVE ME...
ONEE-CHAN!
BELIEVE ME... PLEASE!

SHION
ONEE-CHAN.

IF YOU REALLY ARE INNOCENT, THEN YOU CAN GO TO HEAVEN.
IF I WERE STILL SHION'S BIG SISTER, MAYBE SHE WOULD HAVE MOVED MY HEART.
ONEE ...
BUT I AM A DEMON.

ONCE I'VE KILLED SHION, IT WILL BE FINISHED. THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED.
IF I CAN'T ACCOMPLISH THAT...
...THEN WHAT IS MY EXISTENCE?
WHAT IS MY LIFE, A LIFE IN WHICH I THREW AWAY EVERYTHING TO AVENGE SATOSHI-KUN?
AT THE VERY END, YOU SAY THESE THINGS THAT MESS IT ALL UP.
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN EVERYTHING I'VE DONE ..
...WASN'T REVENGE. IT WASN'T ANYTHING.
IT MEANS I WAS JUST...
...POSSESSED BY THE FIFTH YEAR'S CURSE.

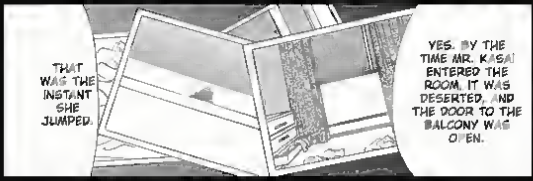
I CAN'T GO TO HEAVEN, SO I CAN'T TELL HIM I'M SORRY
APOLOGIZE WHEN YOU SEE SATOSHI-KUN IN HEAVEN
INSTEAD, I'LL GO ALL THE WAY TO THE BOTTOM-MOST DEPTHS...
...OF HELL.

I'LL SURVIVE UNTIL I CAN FIND A FITTING DEATH.

DISGRACEFULLY.

FINAL CHAPTER: HAPPY NOTEBOOK

JUNE 1983
A SERIES OF MURDERS BREAKS OUT IN HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE.


THAT WAS THE INSTANT SHE JUMPED.
YES. BY THE TIME MR. KASAI ENTERED THE ROOM, IT WAS DESERTED, AND THE DOOR TO THE BALCONY WAS OPEN.

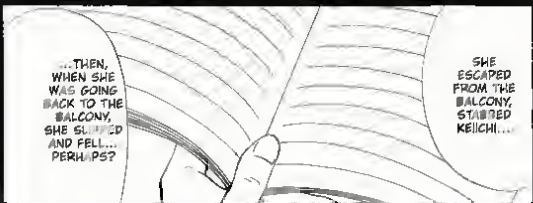
VICTIMS: ORYOU SONOZAKI, KIICHIROU KIMIYOSHI...

MR. KASAI THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE JUMPED AND WENT TO THE GROUND FLOOR TO INVESTIGATE, BUT THERE WAS NO BODY. THAT WAS BECAUSE AT THAT TIME, SHE WAS UNCONSCIOUS ON THE ROOF.
AND DIED.
SHE FELL ONTO THE FIFTH FLOOR ROOF DIRECTLY UNDER THE BALCONY AND SUFFERED A CONCUSSION. AFTER THAT, SHE FELL AGAIN.

...RIKA FURUDE, SATOKO HOJO...

I DON'T THINK SO.
AND SHION SONOZAKI HAD ALREADY JUMPED AND WAS PASSED OUT ON A ROOF AT THAT TIME?
IT WAS RIGHT AROUND THAT TIME THAT KEIICHI MAEBARA WAS STABBED.

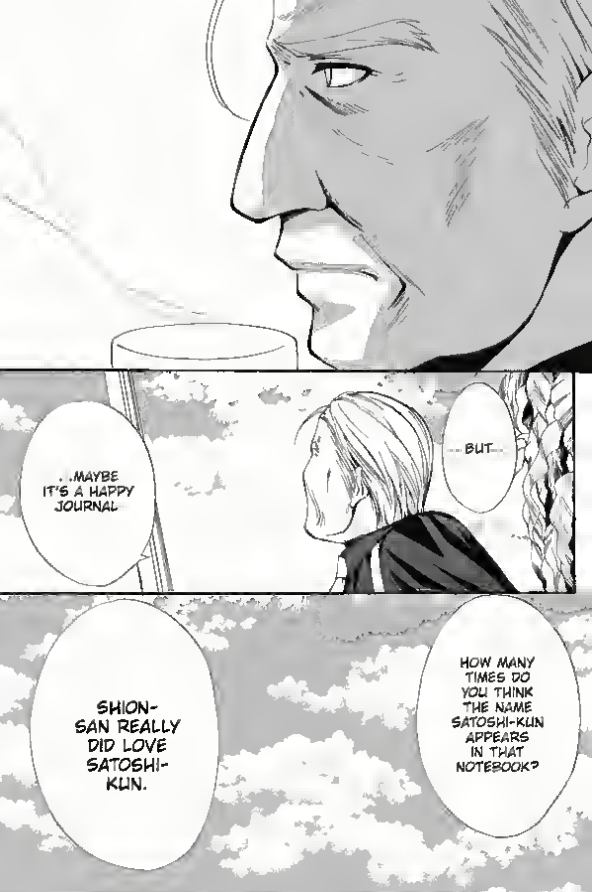
..MION SONOZAKI, KEIICHI MAEBARA...



SUSPECT: SHION SONOZAKI

THE SONOZAKI SISTERS WERE REVERSED.
WE'VE SINGLED OUT THE KILLER, BUT I JUST CAN'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT THIS CASE
...AND SHION WAS MION.
MION WAS SHION...
IF YOU READ IT THAT WAY, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SATOSHI-KUN AND SHION-SAN.
SO IN THIS NOTEBOOK MION AND SHION SHOULD BE SWITCHED!
WHEN THEY GAVE ONE THE TATTOO THEY GOT IT WRONG AND DID IT BACKWARD
APPARENTLY THERE WAS NO UNDOING IT

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF THIS WE CAN BELIEVE
THE PART ABOUT RIKA FURUDE'S DEATH IS JUST TOO FISHY
WELL, OF COURSE, JUST KNOWING THAT THE NAMES ARE SWITCHED DOESN'T MEAN IT WON'T DISRUPT THE INVESTIGATION
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT THE NOTES WERE ALL MIXED UP, AND IT COULD POSSIBLY HARM THE INVESTIGATION?
NOTEBOOK...? YOU MEAN THAT MYSTERY NOTEBOOK SOMEONE MAILED TO YOU, OOISHI-SAN?
IT'S THE JOURNAL OF A MADWOMAN.
WHEN I READ IT, I FELT LIKE IT MIGHT DRIVE ME INSANE
WHEN I READ THE "I'M SORRY FOR BEING BORN" ON THE LAST PAGE, IT MADE ME WANT TO JUMP OFF A BALCONY


...MAYBE IT'S A HAPPY JOURNAL
BUT...
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU THINK THE NAME SATOSHI-KUN APPEARS IN THAT NOTEBOOK?
SHION-SAN REALLY DID LOVE SATOSHI-KUN.

LIST OF PERSONS CONNECTED TO THE SERIES OF MURDERS IN HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE

■ TAMAE HOJO
BEATEN TO DEATH IN THE VILLAGE ON JUNE 20, 1982.
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE

■ SATOSHI HOJO
WENT MISSING(?) FROM THE VILLAGE ON JUNE 24, 1982.
WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN.

■ JIROU TOMITAKE (REAL NAME UNKNOWN)
KILLED HIMSELF(?) IN THE VILLAGE ON JUNE 19, 1983
DEATH RESEMBLED JUNE 22 MURDER OF RIKA FURUDE

■ MIYO TAKANO
HANGED IN THE MOUNTAINS OF GIFU PREFECTURE ON JUNE 19, 1983
CORPSE WAS BURNED UP. INVESTIGATION ONGOING

■ ORYOU SONOZAKI
MURDERED BY SHION SONOZAKI ON JUNE 20, 1983
CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOCK FROM A STUN GUN. THE CORPSE WAS HEAVILY DAMAGED AFTER DEATH. SEVERE LACERATIONS FOUND ON THE SCALP.

■ RIKA FURUDE
MURDERED BY SHION SONOZAKI(?) ON JUNE 22, 1983.
CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOCK DUE TO LOSS OF BLOOD FROM STAB WOUNDS ON THROAT. DEATH RESEMBLED THAT OF JIROU TOMITAKE ON JUNE 19. INVESTIGATION ONGOING

■ KIICHIROU KIMIYOSHI
MURDERED BY SHION SONOZAKI ON JUNE 22, 1983.
CAUSE OF DEATH: STRANGULATION BY RESTRAINING DEVICE.

■ SATOKO HOJO
MURDERED BY SHION SONOZAKI ON JUNE 22, 1983
CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOCK DUE TO LOSS OF BLOOD FROM STAB WOUNDS ALL OVER BODY

■ MION SONOZAKI
MURDERED BY SHION SONOZAKI ON JUNE 22, 1983.
CAUSE OF DEATH: FELL DOWN A TUNNEL SHAFT.

■ KEIICHI MAEBARA
ATTACKED WITH A KNIFE BY SHION SONOZAKI ON JUNE 30, 1983.
SUSTAINED HEAVY INJURIES BUT RECOVERED STEADILY AFTER SURGERY. SUDDENLY DIED IN THE HOSPITAL ON JULY 3, 1983.
CAUSE OF DEATH: ACUTE HEART FAILURE

■ SHION SONOZAKI
FELL FROM THE APARTMENT WHERE SHE WAS HIDING ON JUNE 30, 1983.
WANTED FOR THE SERIES OF MURDERS THAT STARTED ON JUNE 20, 1983, SHE FELL TO HER DEATH FROM THE APARTMENT IN WHICH SHE WAS HIDING ON THE 30TH OF THE SAME MONTH. DOCUMENTS WERE SUBMITTED BY THE PREFECTURAL POLICE TO THE PROSECUTOR, STATING THAT THE SUSPECT FOR THE MURDER OF ORYOU SONOZAKI AND FIVE OTHERS HAD DIED.

HAAAH
HAAAAAH
I
COULDN'T
TAKE IT ANYMORE
THE THING REN A HAD ONCE WARNED ME OF WAS NO LONGER
...SATOSHI-KUN...
...OR A VISION OF MYSELF.

IT WAS
NOW
SHION'S
GHOST.

ONEE HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE?
YOU SAID YOU WOULD DIE RIGHT AWAY
I'M WAITING FOR YOU
THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL IS DARK AND COLD I'M IN PAIN IT HURTS
DIE.
HURRY AND DIE!
DIE!
AARGH! SHUT UP, SHION!!
IT'S NOT FAIR, ONEE
YOU WAIT FOR A DEATH FITTING FOR YOU, BUT IT WILL NEVER COME!
YOU DID ALL THAT, AND YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP LIVING?
DON'T USE MY MOUTH TO TALK WHENEVER YOU WANT!!
STOP TALKING! YOU'RE JUST A GHOST!!

WHEEZE
WE'RE EVEN TOGETHER IN DEATH.
WHEEZE
WE SISTERS ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER.
SO YOU SEE?
COUGH
COUGH
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
I CAME FOR YOU.

WAAAH!
DAN CRASH!
HAFF!
HAFF!
GADA GUDO
DAN
DAN
DAN
DAN
SU OSHO
BUT LOOK, I WON'T DISAPPEAR FOR NOTHING
YON GYUU
WOULD BE FOR YOU TO CURSE ME TO DEATH
I GET IT, SHION A DEATH FITTING FOR ME

IT'S NOT FAIR FOR THE BOY YOU LOVED TO SURVIVE!!
NO DOUBT THEY BELIEVE I'M STILL IN THE ROOM.
THEY WON'T THINK THAT STUPID SHION IS HIDING ANYTHING. THEY WON'T.
DAMN YOU, SHION JUST YOU WATCH

GEH
GEH
GEH
GEH
GEH
GEH
GEH
LOOK, THERE IT IS. MAEBARA MANOR.
KEIICHI SAID HIS ROOM IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
WAKE HIM UP!
THROW A ROCK!
GEH
GEH
GEH
GEH
GYA
GEH
GYA
GYA
GEH
GEH

MION!
I KNEW IT.
IT'S ALWAYS SHION NO FAIR...

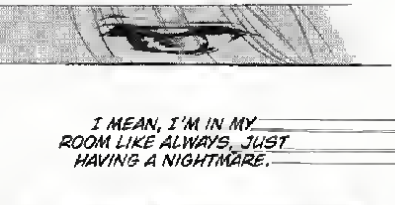
I'M JEALOUS... I'M JEALOUS...
I'M JEALOUS, KEI-CHAN.
I WANT ...
I WANT ...
...SATOSHI-KUN...
...TO GIVE ME A DOLL TOO...!

HAAH... HAAH. I MADE IT.
NOW I'VE KILLED EVERYONE I WANTED TO KILL!!!
I'VE GOTTEN REVENGE ON EVERY-ONE WHO HURT SATOSHI-KUN! GYO-GO-GO-GA-GYA!!
I DID IT. I DID IT!

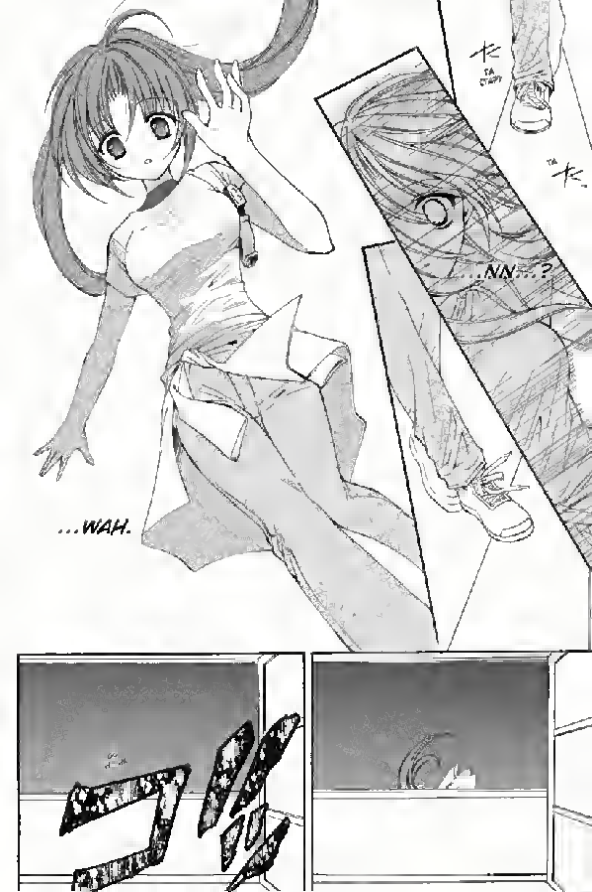
GEH GYA GYA GI GI GEH!
COMPLI-MENT ME, SATOSHI-KUN!! PAT MY HEAD!

YES.

THIS IS ALL A BAD DREAM.



THAT'S RIGHT.
IN MY DREAM, I LEFT FROM THE BALCONY
THE DOOR IS LOCKED
SO I HAVE TO GO BACK IN THROUGH THE BALCONY


...WAH.
...NN...?

AH !
TRIED TO GET TO THE BALCONY FROM THE FIRE ESCAPE
AND I FELL ON THE ROOF OF A ROOM TWO OR THREE FLOORS DOWN
IN A PLACE LIKE THIS
TO THINK I'D LAND

WHAT...
...WAS MY LIFE?
YOU ARE MION SONOZAKI
THE NEXT HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.
ONE DAY, YOU WILL BE IN CHARGE OF BOTH THIS FAMILY AND HINAMIZAWA
YOU WAIT UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER.
SHION
I'LL BE PLAYING ON THE HILL OUT BACK BY MYSELF, WAITING FOR YOU.
ONEE...

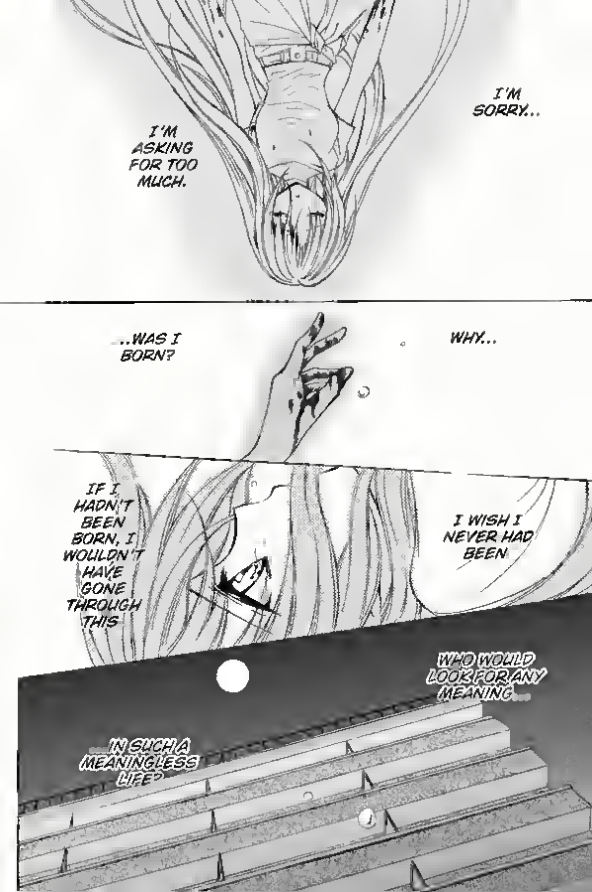
I'LL BE WAITING, SO YOU'D BETTER COME. PROMISE?
ONEE-CHAN?
I'LL BE
ALL RIGHT
SHION
...THERE SOON.

NOW SMASH MY HEAD OPEN...

...AND TAKE ME TO THE HELL I DESERVE.
WHERE DID I MAKE THE WRONG CHOICE IN LIFE ...?
I WONDER WHERE I WENT WRONG.

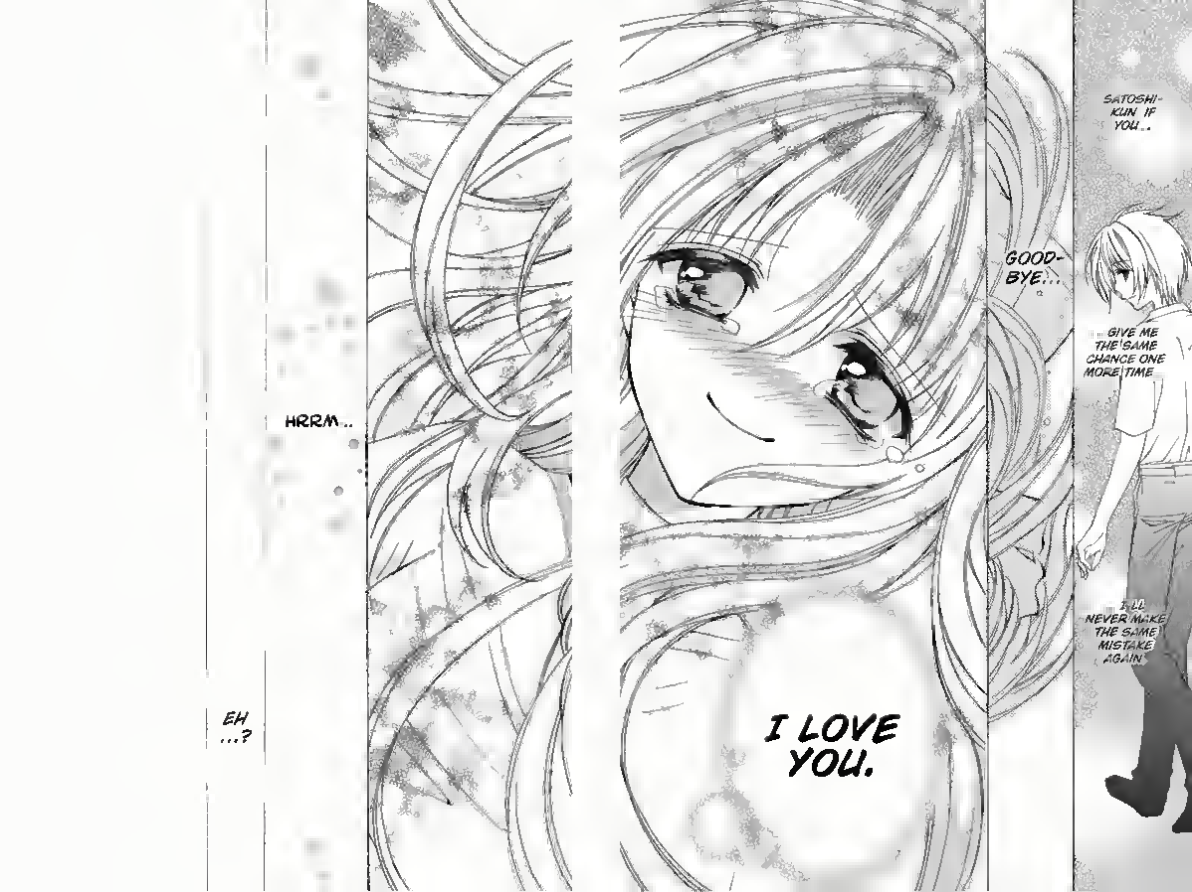
YES...
TAKE CARE ...
SATOSHI-KUN REMINDED ME
YES, I ALREADY KNOW.
...OF SATO-KO FOR ME.
YOU KNOW, I...
BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL COME BACK, SATOSHI-KUN.

SATOSHI-KUN...
I WANT YOU TO PAT MY HEAD AGAIN.
I WANT TO HEAR YOUR "HRRM"...
...ONE MORE TIME.
I... DIDN'T EVEN UNDER-STAND THAT.
SATOSHI-KUN COULD HAVE EN-TRUSTED HIS DEAR LITTLE SISTER TO ANYONE
...BUT HE EN-TRUSTED HER TO ME.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
I'LL WAIT WITH SATOKO UNTIL YOU DO.


I'M ASKING FOR TOO MUCH.
I'M SORRY...
...WAS I BORN?
WHY...
IF I HADN'T BEEN BORN, I WOULDN'T HAVE GONE THROUGH THIS
I WISH I NEVER HAD BEEN
WHO WOULD LOOK FOR ANY MEANING...
...IN SUCH A MEANINGLESS LIFE?

IF I HADN'T BEEN BORN...
...NO ONE WOULD HAVE BEEN UNHAPPY.
THANK YOU...
...FOR BEING NICE TO SOMEONE LIKE ME.
...HOW TO BE IN LOVE.
...FOR TEACHING SOMEONE LIKE ME...
THANK YOU...
SOMEONE LIKE ME..
SOMEONE LIKE ME.

EVERYONE...
...I'M SORRY.


HRRM..
EH ...?
I LOVE YOU.
GOOD-BYE...
SATOSHI-KUN IF YOU..
GIVE ME THE SAME CHANCE ONE MORE TIME
I'LL NEVER MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN

IT'S LUNCH-TIME!
LUNCH-TIME!!
RENA HAS MEATBALLS FOR LUNCH! SHE DOES!
NOW GET THE DESKS TO-GETH-ER!
SOUNDS GOOD. THIS OLD MAN'LL HAVE SOME TOO!
WE'RE STICKING THEM TOGETHER, SIRI STICK!
I HOPE NONE OF YOU THINKS YOU'LL GET A SINGLE BITE!!
HOI
HOI
HOI
MEATBALLS ARE MY VERY FAVORITE FOOD!

BAM (OR BLAM)
GIRL GASP
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING ENOUGH VEGETABLES, SATOKO! SO I HAVE SPECIALLY PREPARED A PUMPKIN LUNCH FOR YOU!
WE CAN'T BE HAVING THAT!
I HATE PUMPKINS!
SATOSHI-KUN IS DEPENDING ON ME SO I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING YOUR HEALTH!
COME BACK HERE, SATO-KO!

THAT'S RIGHT.
I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS IN A CAR ACCIDENT OVER A YEAR AGO,
AND I'LL FINALLY WAKE UP
WHEN I OPEN MY EYELIDS
SATOSHI-KUN, WHO'S CARED FOR ME THE WHOLE TIME
WILL BE THERE LOOKING INTO MY EYES.
AH-HA-HA, I GUESS THAT REALLY WOULD BE TOO PERFECT.

I KEPT THINKING HOW NICE IT WOULD BE
IF EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED
UP TO TODAY HAS BEEN A DREAM.
THAT'S WHY I WROTE THIS
BELIEVING THAT IT WILL BECOME A DREAM.
IT'S A LONG—A RIDICULOUSLY LONG—DREAM
AND IT WOULD MEAN I'D HAVE BEEN ASLEEP FOR OVER A YEAR.

TO MAKE IT INTO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

BUT...
...IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?

IT'S OKAY, RIGHT...?

I'M SORRY...FOR BEING BORN.